UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,870	12/31/2003	Shelly D. Farnham	MS1-1914US	6293

			EXAMINER
22801	7590	06/23/2006	RAYYAN, SUSAN F

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2167	

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 December 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 December 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08032004, 07252005</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-28 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on August 3, 2004 and

July 25, 2005 were filed before First Office Action. The submission is in compliance

with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is

being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US

Patent Application Number 2003/0167324 issued to Shelly D. Farnham et al

("Farnham").

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome

either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in

the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the

invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As per claim 1 Farnham anticipates:

identifying components associated with a first end point in an environment (see

paragraph 57, lines 1-6);

identifying components associated with a second end point in the environment

(paragraph 57, lines 1-6);

 determining whether any of the identified components are associated with both the first

end point and the second end point (paragraph 57, lines 13-14 and Figure 3);

identifying relationships between the first end point, the second end point, and any

components associated with both the first end point and the second end point

(paragraph 57, lines 9-10 and Figure 3).

Farnham teaches identifying components associated with a first end point in an

environment, identifying components associated with a second end point in the

environment, determining whether any of the identified components are associated with

both the first end point and the second end point, identifying relationships between the

first end point, the second end point, and any components associated with both the first

end point and the second end point (paragraph 57and Figure 3).

As per claim 2, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein the environment is a social environment (paragraph 54 and Figure 3, social

visualization).

As per claim 3, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

further comprising receiving a request to identify relationships between the first end

point and the second end point (paragraph 79).

As per claim 4, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein determining whether any of the identified components are associated with both

the first end point and the second end point includes determining a path strength for

each path between the first end point and the second end point (paragraph 35).

As per claim 5, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

 determining a path strength for each path between the first end point and the second

end point and ranking the paths between the first end point and the second end point

based on path strength (paragraph 54).

As per claim 6, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

further comprising ignoring paths having a path strength below a predetermined

threshold (paragraph 54).

As per claim 7, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein identifying relationships includes identifying only the top ranked paths between

the first end point and the second end point (paragraph 54).

As per claim 8, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

further comprising displaying relationships between the first end point, the second end

point, and any components associated with both the first end point and the second end

point (paragraph 57, lines 9-11) .

As per claim 9, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein displaying relationships includes displaying information regarding at least one

component (paragraph 57, lines 5-7).

As per claim 10, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein displaying relationships includes displaying information regarding at least one

link between components(paragraph 57, lines 12-14 and Figure 3).

As per claim 11, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein displaying relationships includes displaying a social context associated with the

first end point and displaying a social context associated with the second end point

(paragraph 57, lines9-14 and Figure 3) .

As per claim 12, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein displaying relationships includes: displaying the first end point and

displaying the second end point; and displaying at least one common component

associated with the first end point and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11

and Figure 3).

As per claim 13, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the second end

point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11and Figure 3);

displaying at least one link between the common component and the first end

point(paragraph 57, lines 4-6);

 displaying at least one link between the common component and the second end

point(paragraph 57, lines 4-6).

As per claim 14, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

displaying the first end point; displaying the second end point; displaying components

associated with the first end point; and displaying components associated with the

second end point(paragraph 57).

Claim 15 is rejected based on the same arguments as claim 1.

As per claim 16 Farnham anticipates:

displaying a first end point(paragraph 57, lines1-5 and Figure 3);

displaying components associated with the first end point(paragraph 57, lines 1-6);

displaying a second end point; displaying components associated with the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 1-6);

displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11);

displaying a link between the common component and the first end point(paragraph 57, lines 5-6);

and displaying a link between the common component and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 8-11).

Farnham teaches displaying a first end point, displaying components associated with the first end point, displaying a second end point, displaying components associated with the second end point, displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the second end point, displaying a link between the common component and the first end point and displaying a link between the common component and the second end point (paragraph 57 and Figure 3).

As per claim 17, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

determining a path strength associated with the common component and

and preventing the display of the common component if the path strength is below a

threshold(paragraph 54).

As per claim 18, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

displaying a second common component associated with the first end point and the

second end point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11, overlapping membership);

displaying a link between the second common component and the first end point and

displaying a link between the second common component and the second end

point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11 and Figure 3).

As per claim 19, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

displaying a second link between the common component and the first end

point(paragraph 57, lines 10-14).

As per claim 20, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

determining a strongest link between the common component and the first end

point(paragraph 54);

 and highlighting the strongest link between the common component and the first end

point(paragraph 55).

As per claim 21, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

displaying a second link between the common component and the first endpoint and

displaying a second link between the common component and the second end

point(paragraph 57, lines 10-14).

Claim 22 is rejected based on the same arguments as claim 16.

As per claim 23, Farnham anticipates:

display a first end point in a social network(paragraph 57, lines 1-5 and Figure 3);

display a second end point in a social network(paragraph 57, lines 1-6);

identify a common component associated with the first end point and the second end

point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11and Figure 3);

display the common component associated with the first end point and the second end

point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11);

display a link between the common component and the first end point; and display a link

between the common component and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 8-11).

Farnham teaches display a first end point in a social network, display a second end

point in a social network, identify a common component associated with the first end

point and the second end point, display the common component associated with the

first end point and the second end point, display a link between the common component

and the first end point and display a link between the common component and the

second end point (paragraph 57).

As per claim 24, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein the one or more processors further determine a path strength associated with

the common component and prevent display of the common component if the path

strength is below a threshold(paragraph 54).

As per claim 25, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein the one or more processors further display a second link between the common

component and the first end point(paragraph 57, lines 10-14).

As per claim 26, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

 wherein the one or more processors further display a second link between the common

component and the first end point and display a second link between the common

component and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines10-14).

As per claim 27, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein the one or more processors further identify a second common component

associated with the first end point and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11

,multiple memberships).

As per claim 28, same as claim arguments above and Farnham anticipates:

wherein the one or more processors further display the second common component

associated with the first end point and the second end point(paragraph 57, lines 9-11).
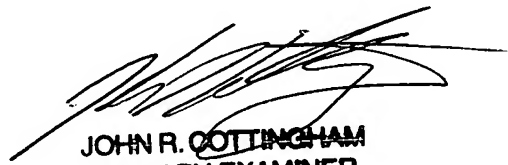
Contact Information

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Susan Rayyan whose telephone number is (571) 272-
1675. The examiner can normally be reached M-F: 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone
number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is
703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from
the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR
system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Rayyan

June 9, 2006

JOHN R. COTTINGHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER